

Message Text

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NOFORN

SECDEF FOR OASD(C3I) AND ODDR&E(IP), JCS FOR J3, FT
MONMOUTH FOR DIR TRI-TAC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL MARR NATO

SUBJECT: NOMINATION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE TRI-SERVICE GROUP
ON COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (TSGCEE)

REF: USNATO 6441 (DTG 051719Z JUL 77)

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SUMMARY: THE NETHERLANDS HAS FORMALLY NOMINATED COL T H
DE BIE AS A CANDIDATE FOR CHAIRMAN OF THE TRI-SERVICE GROUP
ON COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT (TSGCEE).

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ALTHOUGH WE WOULD PREFER SOMEONE ELSE, WE BELIEVE IT UNWISE
FOR THE US TO OPPOSE HIS NOMINATION. RECOMMEND THAT THE US
REMAIN NEUTRAL FOR THE PRESENT AND MERELY OBSERVE OTHER
NATIONAL COMMITMENTS OF SUPPORT OR NONSUPPORT OF HIS
CANDIDACY. END SUMMARY.

1. ON 1 SEP 77 THE NETHERLANDS FORMALLY NOMINATED COL

IR. (RET.) T H DE BIE AS A CANDIDATE FOR CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE TSGCEE.

2. AS WE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (REF), WE WOULD PREFER SOMEONE OTHER THAN DE BIE. WE CONTINUE TO JUDGE HIM AS UNDESIRABLE BECAUSE:

A. DE BIE IS A COMMUNICATOR AND LACKS FAMILIARITY WITH OTHER FUNCTIONAL AREAS OF THE TSGCEE.

B. HE IS PERHAPS OVERLY DEDICATED TO EUROCOM (HE EXHIBITS A RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT NON-EUROCOM VIEWS, A TRAIT WHICH MIGHT CONTINUE EVEN IF HE RELINQUISHES CHAIRMANSHIP OF EUROCOM).

C. HIS RANK (COL) COULD CREATE A NATO PROTOCOL PROBLEM SINCE MANY TSGCEE MEMBERS HOLD RANKS EQUIVALENT TO ONE- AND TWO-STAR LEVEL.

3. COUNTER ARGUMENTS FAVORING DE BIE ARE STRONG AND INCLUDE THE FACTS THAT:

A. DE BIE HAS HAD RELEVANT EXPERIENCE AS CHAIRMAN OF EUROCOM.

B. A SIGNIFICANT MAJORITY OF NATIONS INDICATED INITIAL

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SUPPORT FOR HIS CANDIDACY AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE TSGCEE.

C. WE KNOW OF NO OTHER NATION PLANNING TO NOMINATE AN ALTERNATE CANDIDATE.

4. IN VIEW OF RECENT US CONGRESSIONAL POLICY TO ADOPT EUROPEAN STANDARDS WHERE POSSIBLE (AND SPECIFICALLY SECDEF BROWN'S INITIATIVE ON TACTICAL AREA COMMUNICATIONS IN WHICH HE SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO EUROCOM STANDARDS), WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY UNWISE FOR THE US TO CAMPAIGN OVERTLY OR COVERTLY FOR SOMEONE OTHER THAN DE BIE, THE CURRENT EUROCOM CHAIRMAN. (FYI: WHILE WE DON'T KNOW OF ANY PLANNED OPPOSITION TO DE BIE, SOME MAY DEVELOP. SOME NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES (FRANCE, FOR ONE) HAVE PREVIOUSLY STATED THEIR PREFERENCE FOR A CHAIRMAN FROM A NONPRODUCING NATION. END FYI.)

5. IN SUMMARY, WE RECOMMEND THAT FOR THE PRESENT THE US ADOPT A COMPLETELY NEUTRAL POSITION ON DE BIE'S CANDIDACY, AND AWAIT DEVELOPMENTS. IN THE EVENT THAT HIS CANDIDACY ENCOUNTERS OPPOSITION OR LACK OF SUPPORT, THE US COULD THEN

SUGGEST OR SUPPORT AN ALTERNATE CANDIDATE FROM A NON-
PRODUCING NATION (E.G., NORWAY). BENNETT

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